

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rose-Hulman Scholar

The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

Fall 10-6-2006

Volume 42 - Issue 05 - Friday, October 6, 2006

Rose Thorn Staff

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, library@rose-hulman.edu

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Recommended Citation

Rose Thorn Staff, "Volume 42 - Issue 05 - Friday, October 6, 2006" (2006). *The Rose Thorn Archive*. 187.
<https://scholar.rose-hulman.edu/rosethorn/187>

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News Briefs

By Ryan Schultz

Iceberg destroyed by Alaskan storm

Alaska and Antarctica are nearly on the opposite side of the globe from one another, yet last October, a severe storm over the coast of Alaska caused swells which destroyed an iceberg in Antarctica. According to Douglas MacAyeal of the University of Chicago and Emile Okal at Northwestern University, the swell caused by the Alaskan storm traveled more than 8,300 miles before it reached Antarctica. The scientists watched the iceberg, named B15A, collapse last October via satellite, and using seismometers placed on the iceberg, were able to determine how it was destroyed. By tracing data through other instruments throughout the Pacific Ocean, the scientists found that the cause was the storm that had occurred six days earlier in Alaska. “The iceberg shattered like a gracile wine glass being sung to by a heavy soprano,” said MacAyeal.

Sightseers pack airport

Suvarnabhumi Airport, Bangkok’s newest landmark, was originally built to handle 45 million passengers a year. It’s open, modern architecture was designed to make the airport a pleasant and attractive destination. Now, the locals, who have no intention of traveling, are flocking to the new structure in droves. More than 90,000 passengers can pass through Suvarnabhumi in one day; now, the airport is also having to handle more than 100,000 Thais who are merely coming to snap pictures. “So many people are coming for sightseeing, and we’re pleading with them to stop,” said Chotisak Asapaviriya, president of Airports of Thailand. “We invited (visitors) so that they could familiarize themselves with the new airport, but now it’s no longer familiarization – it has become a picnic.”

Pi recited to first 100,000

Tokyo researchers in 2002 discovered the first 1.24 trillion decimal places in pi, the enigmatic, never ending non-rational number. Wednesday, a Japanese man recited pi to the first 100,000 places by memory. Akira Haraguchi, a mental health counselor, took more than 16 hours to accomplish the feat, breaking once every one to two hours for a brief five minutes so that he could use the restroom and eat rice balls. Haraguchi’s attempt was recorded, including the bathroom breaks, as evidence for the Guinness Book of World Records, which requires evidence of the feat as well as witness statements. “What I am aiming at is not just memorizing figures,” said Haraguchi, “I am thrilled by seeking a story in pi.”

“Bonfire”d up for Homecoming

Chris Casillas
Staff Writer

The largest hand-built bonfire will be lit tonight as an ongoing tradition at Rose-Hulman Homecoming. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni will gather around the bonfire as they share stories and watch the 300 untreated railroad ties burn. The origins of the bonfire are still fuzzy, but Director of Residence Life Erik Hayes has spent many hours researching the history of the bonfire. In the 1920s, students had a big fire at Halloween, where students met at 9th St. and Walnut St. back when Rose Poly was still in Terre Haute. In the 1940’s, the bonfire became a large telephone pole with an outhouse placed at the top. “Students would pile all of their old lab materials around it,” mentioned Hayes. The bonfire was also constructed with railroad ties. 1962 was the last year that the telephone pole was used, and in 1963, a central pillar of wood was constructed and this is where the outhouse is placed to this day. Hayes mentioned that the students numbered every row of railroad ties they had constructed. When asked about the

outhouse, “[It’s] the home of the sophomores,” explained Hayes. The freshman and sophomores had an intense rivalry for many years where the sophomores would tear the bonfire down and make the freshmen rebuild it. In 1996, the SRC was constructed on the original site for the bonfire and the tradition was in jeopardy. 5 RAs and Hayes confronted Dr. Hulbert and asked for the tradition to continue if they could raise the money for it and find a spot for it to sit. And how were they able to raise money for the bonfire? “We sold T-shirts to pay for the railroad ties,” said Hayes. Every year, Rose-Hulman has to apply for a permit in order to burn the bonfire. “Vigo County Air Pollution Control Center inspects the bonfire to make sure it is less than 1000 cubic feet in size,” explained Hayes. He also mentioned that they submit a report which fully documents everything about the bonfire, even Solid Edge drawings of what it could look like. When asked if the bonfire would be lit again with fuses thrown in by students, Hayes said there is a new lighting system. He mentioned that it would be a surprise for all the



Albert Mui / Rose Thorn

Freshmen from around campus have been working steadily, building the traditional bonfire layer by layer in anticipation of Homecoming whose opening pep rally is tonight at 8:30 p.m. in Cook Stadium.

students and he said it will even be a surprise for him. The biggest part of the bonfire is the impact it has on the students and their memories. “Bonfire is tradition, bringing everybody back together is what makes it sweet,” said Senior Electrical/Mechanical Engineer Lon Farr. “Wandering around after it’s lit...by the light of the bonfire...[you] get to see all the people you haven’t seen in a while,” explained Lon. “[It is a] great way to

burn a whole bunch of stuff.” When asked about his memories of the bonfire raids, “I remember guarding it when I was a freshman and an SA. I’m proud to say nothing happened to the bonfire on my night,” remarked Lon. He also said that the bonfire raids are not so much about destroying the bonfire, but more about making the freshmen guard the bonfire and keeping the tradition of the raids alive with the freshmen.

Challenge X pushes it to the limit

Fred Webber
Staff Writer

During the 2004 - 2005 school year, Rose-Hulman became one of seventeen schools to participate in the Challenge X project. According to the Challenge X website, it is a three year project that involves modifying a Chevy Equinox to “minimize energy consumption, emissions, and greenhouse gases while maintaining or exceeding the vehicle’s utility and performance.” One of the stipulations is that the vehicle must become a hybrid. Rose’s Equinox runs on electricity and bio-diesel. Most students on the project come from the ME and ECE departments, though a few CSSE and Chemistry students have also on the team. Senior mechanical engineer Tom Martin became involved in the project as a freshman, when he did research on fuel cell tech-

nology for the proposal. At the beginning of June this past summer, sixteen students and both Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering Marc Herniter, and Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering Zachariah Chambers, the RHIT Challenge X advisors, went to Phoenix for two weeks. Martin mentioned a few challenges the team had to overcome. “First, our vehicle had to pass safety inspections so for the first several days we were frantically trying to correct any safety issues that the event coordinators saw with our vehicle. This included adding a lot of lock washers, labeling wires and finding a new location for our fuel tank. We finally had to design a custom fuel tank that GM technicians helped us build and install.” Once the team passed inspection, the team competed in five qualifying tests involving braking, maneuverability, acceleration, high-speed sta-

bility, and traction control. After the team finished the prequalifying events, they participated in the major events, which included on-road fuel economy, trailer towing, emissions, and drive quality. Though the team competed in all the events, they failed to finish several because of issues such as overheating or low-voltage system failure. On the day Rose did the qualifying events, it was about 115 degrees outside, and the road was 130 degrees. At the end of the event, Chambers and Herniter won the \$15000 Outstanding Incoming Faculty Advisor award. Junior mechanical engineer Jama Johnson won an Outstanding Women in Engineering award. Since the event, the team got a new transmission. Before, they had one that they had made was a little big. “This one was designed by a company, it’s not something we did ourselves,” explained

Herniter. The transmission has both motors integrated together. “We have a new motor controller, it’ll be a new control scheme.” But all decisions made by the team are well thought out, “We do all kinds of real-time programming and modeling, all sorts of simulations before doing the real thing,” Herniter detailed. Phoenix isn’t the only place team members have gone recently. Kristina Lawyer, a junior mechanical engineer, went to Michigan. “My last trip was to Detroit, MI to the Ford Innovation Center and an Automotive Roundtable,” said Lawyer. “We talked to a bunch of automotive industry people at the roundtable, acquired some sponsorship monies, toured the Ford Innovation Center, talked with some Ford engineers, went to dinner with said engineers, and we all got to drive the new Ford Hybrid Escape.”

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Welcome back alumni!

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Upcoming
community events

					Friday	Saturday
					October 6	7
					*National Denim Day *Homecoming Activities *Open Forum For Vice President of Development Candidate (Molly Ann Mroczynski), 4:30 p.m., E-104	*Homecoming Activities *Midterm grades due *Volleyball vs. Transylvania University, 1:00 p.m., Hulbert Arena *Football vs. Defiance College, 2:00 p.m., Cook Stadium *Recycled Percussion, 8:30 p.m., Hatfield Hall
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	13	14
8	9	10	11	12	*Fall Break	
	*Registration for Winter Qtr *Quarterback Club Luncheon, 11:45 a.m., Chauncey's *BCM's Conversational English for Internat'l Students, 4:00 p.m., BCM House *Co-Op Orientation Session, 5:00 p.m., PA Room	*Registration for Winter Quarter *Baptist Collegiate Ministries' Tuesday Night Together, 7:00 p.m., BCM House *Catholic Music Practice, 7:00 p.m., White Chapel *Catholic Bible Study, 8:00 p.m., White Chapel	*Registration for Winter Qtr **"Synthesis, Assembly and Reactivity of Metallic Nanorods", Catherine Murphy of University of S.C., 11:45 a.m., G-315 *Vigo County Colleges' Relay For Life Organizational Meeting, 5:30 p.m., American Cancer Society Office	*Fall Break		

Rose Community:

If you know of a club event or other campus event that should be listed in our calendar, contact thorn@rose-hulman.edu with information.

6.50/hr

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The Rose Thorn

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*"Working to keep the Rose-Hulman community informed
by providing an accurate and
dependable source for news and information."*

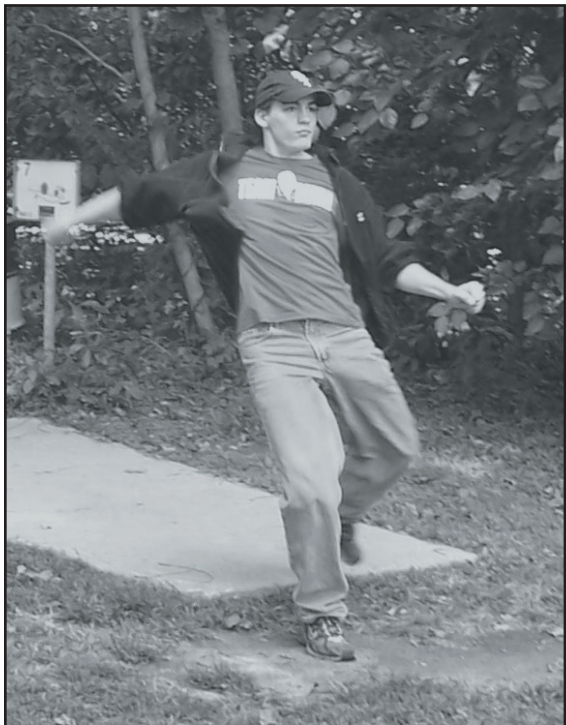
The Rose Thorn is published on Fridays
first through ninth week each quarter.

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The *Rose Thorn* welcomes and encourages comments from its readers. We request that all letters to the editor be less than 600 words in length.
THE DEADLINE FOR CONTENT SUBMISSION IS 5 P.M. TWO DAYS PRIOR TO PUBLICATION

All content should be submitted to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or to the *Rose Thorn* Office (Hulman Memorial Union room 249).
The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, grammar, length, and factual errors. The editors reserve the right to accept content changes submitted after deadline.
All letters must contain the writer's signature (electronic form is acceptable) and contact information (e-mail address and/or phone number).
The views expressed in the *Rose Thorn* are those of the original author and do not necessarily represent the views of the *Rose Thorn* staff or Rose-Hulman community.



Christina Davis / Rose Thorn
Working hard and playing hard; Rose students (clockwise from bottom left) Kevin Zekis (twice), Isaac Sachs, and Jon Carson (twice) enjoy a day at the links this past Saturday at the SGA sponsored Frisbee Golf Tournament.

Frisbee golf...Rose style

Rachel Howser
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association of Rose-Hulman sponsored a Frisbee Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 30 from 1-3 p.m. in Deming Park. The event was graced with amazing weather and was largely successful, with 14 teams competing with four members each. During the tournament, each hole was considered a par three for

simplicity's sake. The winning team was Kilimanjaro, consisting of members Jonathon Clark, Jacob Dugan, Jordan Kendall, and Richard Maxwell. As a team, they managed to shoot six under par on the 18-hole course. The second place team was Thieves, made up of members Ryan Blackburn, Devin Claerbout, Brandon Hathaway, and Nic Morfing. Numerous prizes were raffled off including: five Innova putters, a driver, a driver and putter combo, three t-shirts, a disc

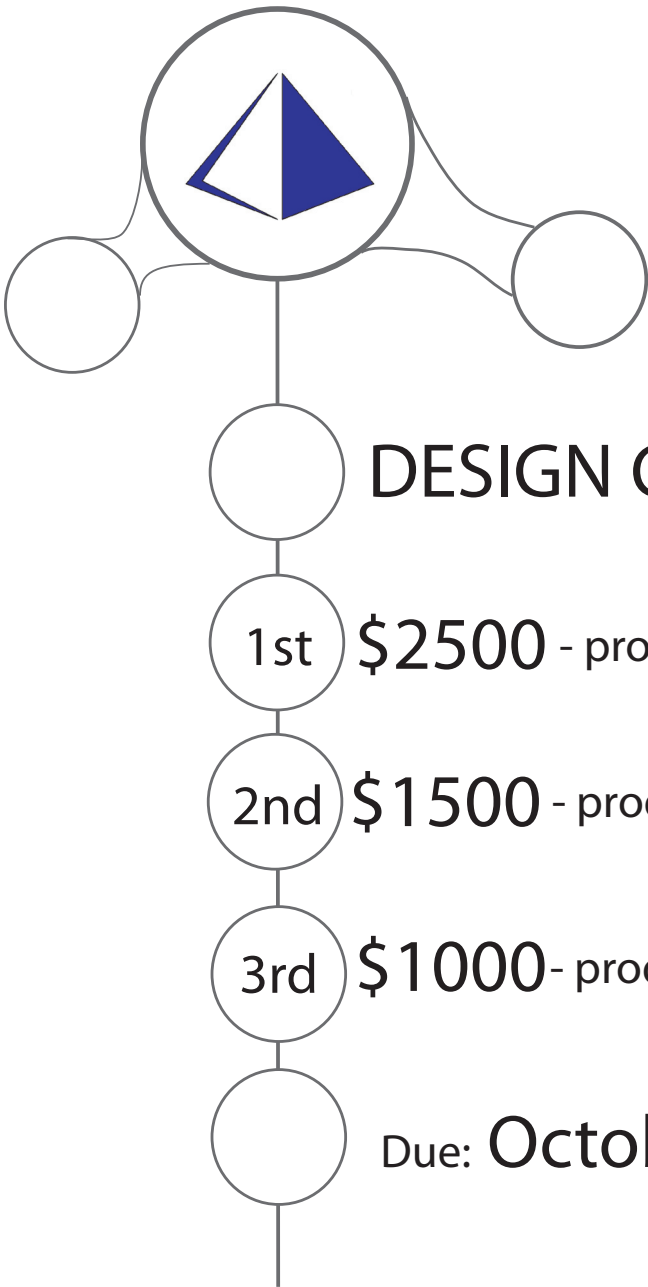
golf bag, and a grand prize consisting of a four-disc set of Innova discs and a disc golf bag. Jon Carson, one of the 56 competitors, stated, "It was a lot of fun, even though we lost. The members of my team felt like winners because we won two of the raffle prizes." Another competitor stated that he felt that the tournament was worth it because of the 350 Buffalo Wild Wings offered afterwards. The wings were much appreciated and disappeared in approximately five minutes.



Challenge X from Page 1

The Challenge X team faces many challenges, notwithstanding standard Rose-Hulman coursework. "Time is the team's greatest enemy," said Martin. "We had a major driveshaft failure only days before the vehicle was supposed to ship to competition in Phoenix. Work on the vehicle was almost continuous for the 3 days prior to shipment." Martin is the team leader of Rear Suspension. Time isn't the only thing working against the Engi-

neer Team. Lawyer, who works on the emissions team, has other concerns. "The biggest challenge we have had is simply finding the materials we need to meet our competition requirements." This weekend, the team plans to have their car on display with the new transmission, which was donated by Allison Transmissions. The team has borrowed a 5-horsepower pull-start diesel motor that will be used to start the input shaft.



DESIGN COMPETITION

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Directed by Jon Liebesman
Rated R

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Starring Jessica Simpson
Rated PG-13

Out on DVD

X-Men: The Last Stand

Thank You For Smoking

Box Office Tops

1. *Open Season*
2. *The Guardian*
3. *Jackass Number Two*
4. *School for Scoundrels*
5. *Fearless*

Recommended for Springsteen fans

Mike Jones
Entertainment Editor Emeritus

I really like *High Fidelity*. For a music reviewer, it's nearly mandatory. Not only is it one of the best novels ever written about being in a relationship, but it also accurately portrays what it's like to be a record store junky. While it might be embarrassing to admit, I often ask myself, "What would Rob Gordon think of this album?" Most albums that I like would more than likely get put in Rob's art-school rubbish bin.

I can listen contently to The Hold Steady's newest, however, with the warm feeling that Rob would approve with a nod and smile. With *Boys & Girls in America*, they seem to be quickly becoming the closest thing to The Boss to come around for a long time. And I can only agree with most critics that it's about time a band pulled off this kind of music with so much success.

This is an album almost every-



inlandempiretouring.com

The Hold Steady are known for bringing beer to their shows. Lead singer Craig Finn even brought a beer to this publicity shoot.

one can enjoy. Catchy hooks and refrains pop up in every song. An appropriate mix of ballads and up-

tempo rock songs makes for an incredibly smooth listen. The most important aspect is the lyrical connection to the listener, though. That connection was something that Springsteen made an art form, and Hold Steady vocalist Craig Finn appears to have the same gift.

Take the album opener "Stuck between Stations." Over a simple combination of piano and power chords, Finn sings "There are times when I think Sal Paradise was right - boys and girls in America have such a sad time together." Finn quickly establishes that the album title was lifted from Jack Kerouac's classic novel *On the Road*, where he goes by the pseudonym Sal Paradise. Later in

the song he seems to make a reference to himself - "He was drunk and exhausted but he was critically acclaimed and respected." The Hold Steady are famous, or infamous, for bringing a case of beer to nearly all of their shows.

The album loses no momentum moving into the second track, "Chips Ahoy." It tells the story of a girlfriend who can easily win at the horse track, but who seems incapable of having a good time. "Came in six lengths ahead, we spent the whole next week getting high. I love this girl, but I can't tell if she's having a good time." Along with Finn's always great vocals the song is incredibly catchy, which made it an obvious choice as the album's first single.

A lot of critics are professing that *Boys & Girls* is an instant classic, and I agree with some reservation. While it is great, it does have a few faults. The album does lose some steam near the end. "Massive Nights" and "Citrus" don't quite catch fire the way the rest of the songs do, and since the two fall next to each other on track list, it lulls the huge momentum gained through the first part of the album. Also, some listeners might be turned off by a fairly high degree of cheese.

If you're a Bruce Springsteen fan, I would highly recommend this album. Finn's vocal style will probably be perfect for you, and The Hold Steady's music will feel familiar. *Boys & Girls in America* is one of the best albums I've heard this year, and it's very exciting to get something so void of pretension.

"Grey's Anatomy" dissected

Rachel Howser
Staff Writer

Everyone seems to be talking about "Grey's Anatomy" lately, but what is the big fuss about? Before two weeks ago, I had merely seen bits and pieces of a couple of episodes. With the third season premiere coming up in an hour, I sat down with my roommates to watch a compilation of season two. I was not immune and found myself immediately pulled in by a combination of medical emergencies and juicy love affairs.

The show's main character, Meredith Grey, is a surgical intern at the fictional Seattle Grace Hospital, supposedly one of the toughest surgical residency programs in the nation. The show follows Meredith and her fellow interns as they struggle through love, life, and death at the hospital.

The show is generally running several interconnecting story lines. Two of the prominent current story lines include two of

the interns, Meredith and Izzie. Meredith has a decision to make. The brilliant, yet married, neurosurgeon she has been smitten with in the last two seasons has revealed that his marriage is over and he is hers if she will take him. However, she has been seeing a local veterinarian who is a



usatoday.com

Though she looks happy here, Izzie has been depressed in season three.

truly nice guy. She decides to date them both before deciding.

Another intern, Izzie, fell in love with one of her patients, Denny. She pulls strings at the end of season two to insure that Denny receives the heart he desperately needs.

However, he dies in the season finale and Izzie is crushed. She admits to breaking rules to make sure Denny gets the heart and is banished from the hospital. She is severely depressed during the first two episodes of season three.

"Grey's Anatomy" has been hugely successful, winning seven major awards in its first season and a half run. You can watch "Grey's Anatomy" on Thursdays at 9 p.m. on ABC.

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Woody Allen: too old to be funny?

Tarek Karkoutly
Daily Toreador (Texas Tech)

Woody Allen has given the world of cinema 35 unforgettable years of comedic wit, absurdity, neuroticism and erudite drama as Brooklyn's most notorious phobic sage writer, director and actor.

The tag of a specific genre of film has never undermined Allen's reputation as a filmmaker, and this bold Hollywood mutineer likes to keep it that way. He's managed to release two films per year since 1969 and has developed a working system that has never left him featureless or uninspired. He's won the heart of the Academy with such films as "Annie Hall" (1977) and "Manhattan" (1979), yet he also has managed to keep the satirical wing of farce in motion with other eclectic and miscellaneous films such as "Every Thing You've Always Wanted To Know About Sex (But Were Afraid To Ask)" (1972), and the futuristic ultramodern satire of "Sleeper" (1973).

Still, the most prominent device that can be easily found in all of Allen's films is the use of the young, ripe women he chooses to cast and lure into falling for his often-portrayed persona as the overanxious and whiny New York intellectual.

Over the years, Allen has managed to win over such artistic and striking actresses as Diane Keaton, Judy Davis, Mia Farrow, Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts, Mira Sorvino, Winona Ryder and Dianne Wiest. Yet his most recent "starlet love-interest" role has been attached to

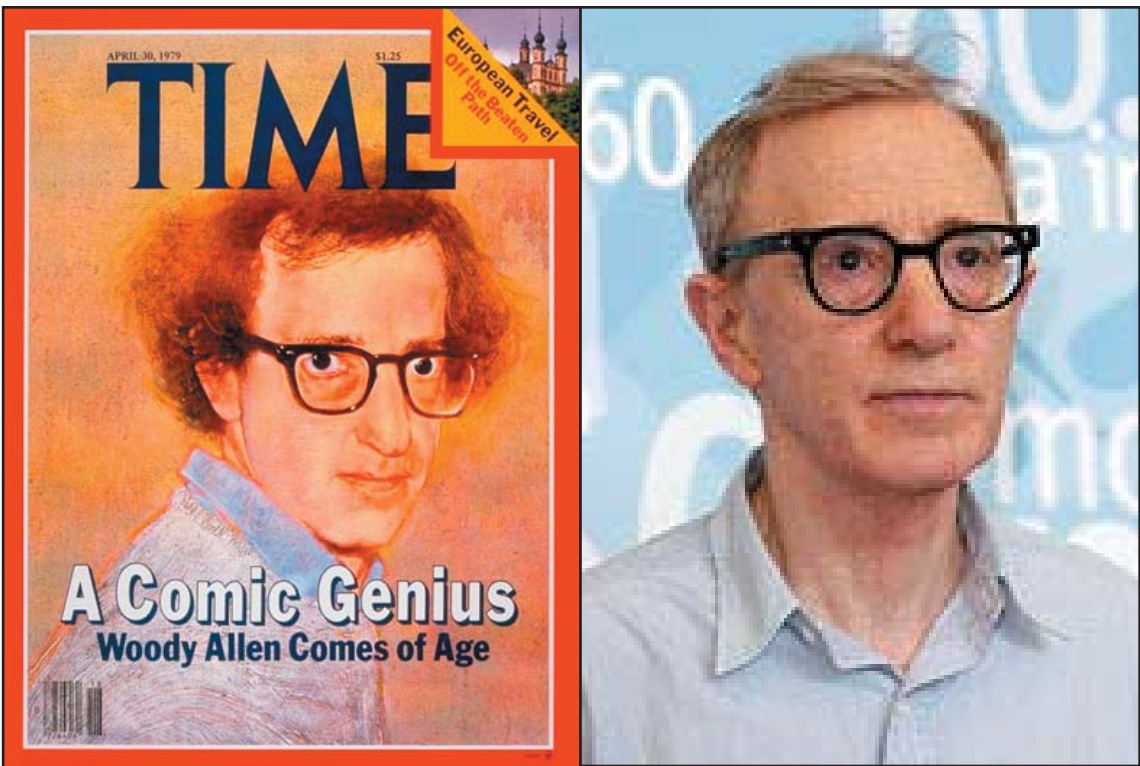
the eye-catching yet dry Scarlett Johansson.

Over the past two decades, Allen's film career has begun to slightly plunge, releasing hit-and-miss comedies such as "Celebrity," "Small Time Crooks," "The Curse Of The Jade Scorpion" and "Anything Else" -- the gruesomely failed attempt to connect to a more youthful audience, starring (enter a long groan of irritable disgust here) Jason Biggs. The only safe point Woody Allen seemed to maintain throughout the '90s was a vibrant return to the field of drama with his fictional biopic regarding the life of the second-best jazz guitarist in America in the 1940s, "Sweet And Lowdown" (1999). It landed its star, Sean Penn, with a stout Oscar nomination.

Yet the new millennium saw Allen surrounded with devout critics turning their backs and previous production companies growing a little edgy and doubtful of his prospective creative future.

In February of 2006, however, Woody Allen did something even his most enthusiastic fans could have never predicted. He abandoned the heart of New York City and set sail to the royal city of London to free himself from the oppressive and dense agenda of the Hollywood mind, a move presumed to have been rooted in a heated argument with executives from Dreamworks Pictures.

The moviegoing world was baffled by Allen's impulsive decision and was particularly skeptical about his first British film debut, and who could blame them? Visualizing Woody Allen



Woody Allen was once a national phenomenon and stood on the cutting edge of comedy. However, his recent work hasn't seen the same success at the box office and has been hit-and-miss in the eyes of critics.

You are your own judge

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

The first assertive right is: "You have the right to judge your own behavior, thoughts, and emotions, and to take responsibility for their initiation and consequences upon yourself."

Manuel Smith defines 10 statements in his "Bill of Assertive Rights" in *When I Say No, I Feel Guilty*, but all branch off the first. Think of the power that this idea gives you. There are so many childish assumptions on how we "should" behave in society — we *should* apologize for this, we *should* feel guilty over that, we *should* feel "caught" or "in trouble" when authority figures find us doing certain acts.

Smith presents a useful and interesting set of techniques for dealing with people's manipulative tactics and handling criticism. Smith offers plenty of conversation examples in case some of his more rambling descriptions and justifications for techniques lose readers. The conversations are annotated, highlighting exactly what techniques are being used. I found these to be very helpful in giving concrete examples of how I might respond to certain situations.

Smith's techniques may superfi-

cially seem like a good way to win arguments, but it's really a way of dealing with manipulative people around you so that you aren't buffeted by their constant demands and emotional chain-yanking.

There is one tactic whose use I disagree with, despite Smith's very heavy use of it. It's a tactic designed in part to help you gracefully accept criticism, but in fact makes you sound like a doormat. Regardless, the intent behind the tactic is invaluable — there's no reason that criticism should upset you and make you

It's really a way of dealing with manipulative people around you so you aren't buffeted by their constant demands.

unable to hear truths in the critique.

Smith spends quite a while in the book detailing how one can deal with the manipulative attitudes of those you're close to — lovers, siblings, friends, and parents.

He touches especially on sexual manipulations, and while the sexual attitudes may seem a bit dated and include such words as "vibes" and "groovy", the lessons are as useful as ever.

When I Say No has been in print since 1975, and is still actively printed and sold on Amazon (and probably in the Self-Help sections of bookstores). It's been one of my family's more treasured works since my childhood. It's a great read straight through and a useful reference.

stumbling down the stairs of Paddington Station anxiously awaiting his next sitting of tea and scones while scowling at the local British bombshells seemed as much of a possibility as Allen signing on for "Antz 2: Back In Single File."

Yet his British film debut, "Match Point," starring Jonathan Rhys Myers and his newest obsession, Scarlett Johansson, actually turned out to be a very surprising and convincing comeback for Allen, returning to a more dramatic and vengeful formula that was initially brought to us back in the '80s with his dark and hard-hearted murder chronicle, "Crimes And Misdemeanors" (1989).

Allen received an Oscar nomination for Best Original Screenplay and proved to the filmgoing world once again that even at his prime elderly state, aged at 71 as of 2005, his role behind the camera will always be valued as

a first-rate and superior level of creativity.

Allen's latest film, "Scoop," still tied around the grounds of the English countryside, sees the return of Allen acting in front of the camera, this time as a dated magician bent on performing dated mirror illusions and contemptible card tricks. The film also marks the return of the unrelenting surface of little acting ability derived from Johansson, this time playing the part of an upbeat college journalist bent on solving the murder case of a lifetime, offered to her by the ghost of a recently deceased journalist played by Ian McShane. The main suspect is Peter Lyman (Hugh Jackman), a royal flush of a hunk who lusciously falls for Johansson at first glance.

The film stays true to the quirky and bizarre technique of filmmaking that Allen has al-


ways promised us. For instance, the film opens with the funeral of journalist Joe Strumbel (McShane). The scene cleverly showcases his deceased state by revealing a collection of recently departed souls doomed to their fate as eternal slaves on a ship sailing painstakingly through eternity and driven by the Grim Reaper - quite an imaginative fate of death, I must say.

Yet, Allen's constant state of frantic feature development this year has unfortunately seemed to rub off on his effort, leaving this latest film feeling a little sluggish and a bit apathetic. His attempt at comedy has seen quite a decrease in the past decade, and after a convincing and esteemed comeback through the genus of drama, the moviegoing world, with this film in hand, may have to ask themselves the untimely question: "Is Woody Allen getting too old for comedy?"



Twister

Tournament Winners 2006



1st Place:
Drew Houvener

Congrats!



Runners Up:
Jay Mackay & Matt Luke

Upcoming  events:

Disco Inferno!
Starts right after the Bonfire. Come for root beer. Come for dancing. Come for music. Come for flippy cup. Come for fun.

Recycled Percussion-
Tickets available Thursday&Friday in Union. Show starts 8pm Saturday night in Hatfield.

SAB Meets Thursdays 7pm in the PA Room

A bonfire meditation



Here's
your new
opinion

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

Rose's Homecoming bonfire is definitely a very special thing. Not only has it been a time-honored tradition for over 80 years that brings students and alumni together to reminisce about old times and think about the future, but it is a symbol for the social responsibility each and every one of us has agreed to take on as future engineers and citizens.

When we light the bonfire each year, we all know that it is a large wooden structure that is on fire, which, by definition, is inherently dangerous. We know that people have been seriously injured in similar bonfires at other universities, and that, under the same conditions, it could happen here.

However, we are not verbally warned about the dangers of

the bonfire, nor are there waivers to sign or legal statements made. All of us are intelligent enough to know the dangers of what we are about to witness and accept the risk of what we are participating in.

This is important in an age when frivolous lawsuits run rampant through our court systems like a herd of bison stampeding off a cliff, each one blindly following the apparent success of the one in front of it. We are all familiar with the most famous cases: the woman who got burnt by a cup of coffee because she didn't know it was hot, the man who didn't know eating fast food multiple times a week would make him obese, and the man who got hit by lightning in a parking lot when the amusement park the lot belonged to "could have told people not to



Ryan Schultz / Rose Thorn
The 2005 Homecoming bonfire roars over the heads of students and alumni.

go to their cars."

We can easily laugh at the ridiculous nature of these cases, but they are a serious indicator of a serious social ill growing in America: the loss of responsibility for one's own actions. How terrible is it that at age 20, I've

signed more waivers than personal checks? I have signed them for activities as dangerous as sky-diving and white water rafting to ones as inane as Frisbee golf and mud volleyball.

I don't blame the businesses and organizations that required me to sign these documents: they are merely doing what is necessary to continue existing in a society that believes that personal responsibility can be legislated. I don't need a signed piece of paper to tell me that jumping out of an airplane is a health hazard; I am intelligent and responsible enough to know the dangers and accept the risks involved.

That's why the Homecoming bonfire is such a beautiful thing. During construction, it teaches the freshmen about how an engineer's number one concern when designing is safety, because when engineers screw up, people get

hurt. We set up precautions like setting up a safety perimeter and keeping firemen on hand to make sure everyone has the best chance of staying safe.

Even so, after it is lit, we each assume the unspoken risk of viewing such a massive pyre because from youngest freshman to most elderly alumni, we are all mature enough to know that whatever happens, we chose to be there and that choice was ours and ours alone.

Traditions are perpetuated because they are easy to keep and provide a level of comfort to

those that celebrate them. In the bonfire's case, it has also allowed us to resist society's move toward government removal of personal responsibility. This Homecoming, I encourage you to not only enjoy the light, sound, and ca-

maraderie the bonfire brings, but to meditate on the significance of its continued existence.

[Businesses] are merely doing what is necessary to continue existing in a society that believes that personal responsibility can be legislated.

Something completely different

Alex Clerc
News Editor Emeritus

To study abroad, or not to study abroad? Few from Rose-Hulman do; there are only seven this year. But, in my opinion, you guys have got to get out here — an undergraduate study abroad is one of the best opportunities to live in another country many of us will ever get.

Since early September, I've been living and studying in Magdeburg, Germany, a town of 220,000 about 120 km west of Berlin. The differences between our cultures are striking, but often for the better. For example, tonight I attended an ECE open house... and there was free beer (and yes, the beer here in Germany is fantastic... fantastic beyond your wildest dreams).

But why go abroad? I've met other Americans here, and when I ask them why they came to Europe, I often hear either "I've come to lose myself in Europe" or "I've come to find myself in Europe". As I reflect back on my first month abroad, both of these statements ring true for me.

I've come to find myself in Europe.

My family roots are here in Europe — I have great-grandparents from Germany, from Denmark, from France, from England, Scotland, and Ireland. Also, with my friends, family, and country thousands of miles away, I am more alone here than I have ever been in my life — and what an opportunity that is to find out who I really am!

I've come to lose myself in Europe.

To live it up while I'm still young and free, to get lost in another culture, another worldview, and another language. And with my friends, family, and country thousands of miles away, I am abandoning my old self — my old mannerisms, my old habits, my old character — as I adjust to my new world.

But most of all, I've come to learn in Europe. And I don't mean I've come here to learn about engineering or math — I'm here to learn how to relate to people of other cultures, to make connections with people I seemingly have nothing in common with. I've been here only a month, and I've already had some of the most interesting experiences of my life — from talking about Islam with friends from Egypt and Oman to drinking vodka and singing rock songs with Russians, every day is an unexpected adventure.

Although I miss my home, I do not regret for a second my decision to leave for a year. I highly recommend thinking about the opportunities you have to study abroad; we have the rest of our lives to be engineers in America, so for just one or two semesters, why not be something completely different?

When I ask them why they came to Europe, I often hear either "I've come to lose myself in Europe" or "I've come to find myself in Europe."

An economic downturn?

Andrew Klusman
Staff Writer

In the 2004 Election, we were told numerous times that the Bush tax cuts were a failure, and that we were experiencing the worst economy since Herbert Hoover's presidency at the beginning of the Great Depression. This lie was perpetrated numerous times, despite evidence to the contrary: a 4.6% growth in GDP, record lows in unemployment, and growth in government tax revenues.

Well, if you are the type who needs one more indicator that the Bush tax cuts have worked, here's another. The Dow Jones Industrial Average on October 3 broke its previous record of 11,722.98, which was set at the peak of the dot-com bubble.

The Dow closed at 11,727.34, thus overcoming a major psychological barrier that many may have had in regards to the stock market in the post-dot-com era. The cause for all this growth lies with the Bush tax cuts.

When President Bush took office, he inherited the Clinton economic downturn, which began in early 2000. In addition to this, the attacks on September 11 occurred a mere nine months into his first term, which sent a recessing economy even further into recession.

Around this same time, major corporate scandals broke, most notably the Arthur Andersen accounting scandal which came out as part of the well-known Enron ordeal.

After 9/11, the airline industry also experienced a massive contraction, with major airlines

declaring bankruptcy and having to restructure their operations. Furthermore, oil prices have risen to levels not seen in decades, putting pressure on everyone's wallet.

It's a wonder then that we have been experiencing 4.6% growth for the past few years. One would imagine that, with all these abnormal and devastating hits to the economy, that it would truly be the worst since Hoover's time. But, oddly enough, we have not been devastated by these things.

Rather, we have done something very few developed economies have done in recent years. GDP growth in European countries is hovering around 1%, an unhealthy and slow level for developed countries, and Japan has been hovering near 1% also, sometimes dipping into the negatives, meaning they are experiencing a contracting economy.

That's all fine and dandy, you may say. The Euros have

Now, just lowering taxes will not be enough, but it will be a good start. What we in the States can learn is that the lowering of taxes can and does make a difference, and helps boost the economy.

The one thing that is also hard to grapple with is that tax revenues actually increased, which is both a good and bad thing. For example, in Fiscal Year 2002, according to the US Department of Treasury, tax receipts for the Federal Government were about \$1.95 trillion. In 2005, however, well after the tax cuts were in effect and had time to have their full effect, tax receipts were \$2.15 trillion.

But how could this happen with the tax cuts for the rich? How could taxes go up? Well, part of the answer has to do with the stimulation of the economy, which is what happened with the economy after President Bush had his tax cuts enacted.

Do tax cuts work? Yes. They help stimulate the economy. What must also be included in tax cuts

however, is sound fiscal and monetary policy. Spending must be brought back into line, and the Fed must not mess up the economy

by toying with the interest rate. However,

credit must be given to President Bush for his tax cuts, and we should look forward to the bright future our economy has, especially after we have crossed the threshold that had been looming over our heads since the dot-com era.

(Image courtesy of <http://count-money.com>)



Read!
Think!
Respond!

email: opinions@rose-hulman.edu

Sports Briefs

by Mike Ferguson

ALDS: Yankees and Tigers

The New York Yankees came out strong in their first game of the 2006 postseason against the Detroit Tigers with an 8-4 victory but the Tigers responded in game two. The Tigers ended up on top by a score of 4-3 in game two after a solid performance on the mound and at the plate.

ALDS: Athletics and Twins

The Oakland Athletics lead their series against the Minnesota Twins 2-0. Despite showing power late in the second game, a timely error by all-star center fielder Torii Hunter allowed the A's to assert their position in the series.

NLDS: Cardinals and Padres

The St. Louis Cardinals lead their series against the San Diego Padres 2-0 partly due to Albert Pujols' bat and partly due to stellar pitching performances. Chirs Carpnter opened the series with an outstanding outing, followed by a shutout by Jeff Weaver in game two.

NLDS: Dodgers and Mets

The New York Mets proved to be too much for the Los Angeles Dodgers in the first game of their series. The Mets, on the backs of thier replacement starter John Maine and a stellar 4-5 at the plate performance from Carlos Delgado, won by a score of 6-5.

Men's soccer ranked 7th in region

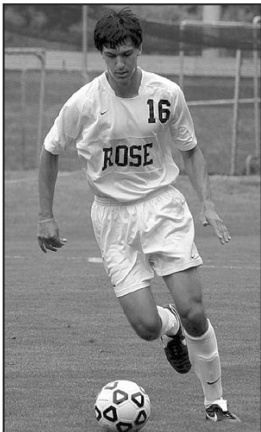
Rose Hulman News

The men's soccer team has been ranked seventh in the NCAA Division III Great Lakes Region by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, in the latest poll released today.

Rose-Hulman has tied its best 11-match start to a season in school history at 8-2-1 and has a 2-1 mark in conference play.

David McIlwaine leads the team with seven goals and ranks fourth in school history with 24 career scores. Junior Matt Trowbridge has added four goals and three

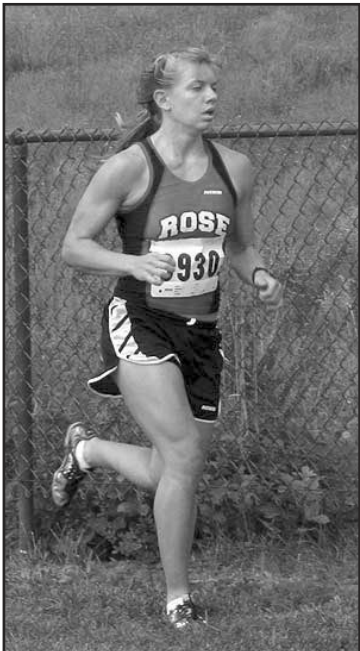
assists for 11 points, while Eric Hoiland ranks third on the team with eight points on two goals and four assists.



Rose Hulman News
Ray Throop is a key part of the Engineer defense.

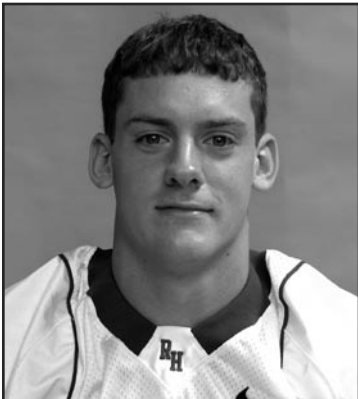
In goal, sophomore Trey Buck has allowed just one goal in the last four games to lower his goals against average to 0.89 for the season. Buck has 45 saves for a .818 save percentage, highlighted by a nine-save shutout vs. Manchester on Saturday.

The Engineers square off with Anderson University in a matchup of teams currently ranked first and second in the HCAC standings on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Engineer Intramural Field.



Rose Hulman News
Rachel Krasich earned HCAC Women's Cross Country Runner of the Week

2006 Fighting Engineers football seniors



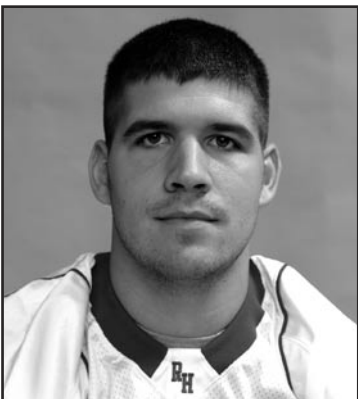
Drew Lopshire
Civil Engineering



Tim Hachfeld
Electrical Engineering



Mike Alto
Mechanical Engineering



Clint Hammes
Mechanical Engineering



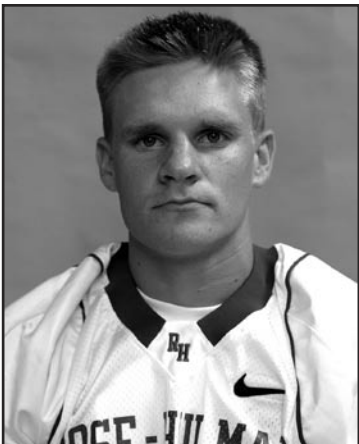
Brandon Couch
Mechanical Engineering



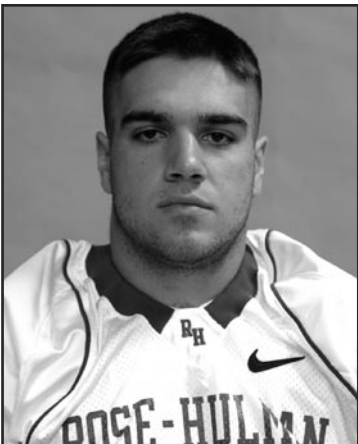
Ray Boyden
Chemical Engineering



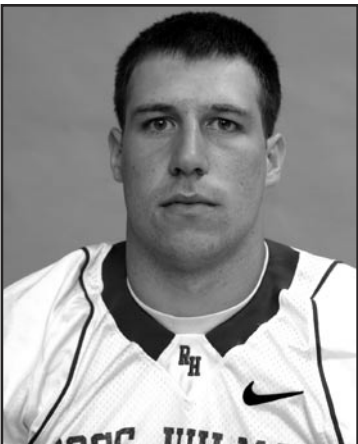
Tim Wilson
Biomedical Engineering



Ryan Robinson
Civil Engineering



Cameron Hummel
Mechanical Engineering



Adam Helmerich
Computer Engineering

\$6.50/hr
Work Study Position
Available NOW
Assistant Advertising Manager

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~Design graphic advertisements

~No Experience Required!
~On-Campus Opportunity!
~Paid Training!
~Flexible Hours!
~Advancement Available!

thornbiz@rose-hulman.edu



Join us at the Game!!!

Help Cheer the Fighting Engineers to victory over the Yellow Jackets!

Homecoming Tent sponsored by Cummins, Inc.
Free food and beverages!
October 7th at Cook Stadium
12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

The Rose Thorn

FLIP SIDE

This Day in History
In 1847, *Jane Eyre* is published. The book by Charlotte Brontë is the first Western novel by a female author with an umlaut in her name. By all accounts, the novel was *totally hardcore*.

In Addition
That sort of name should either belong to a wizened old man with a banjo or a studly young soul man. We're talking jazz, blues, funk, or maybe Motown. I'll allow Motown. But there better be music in the guy.



The care and feeding of...

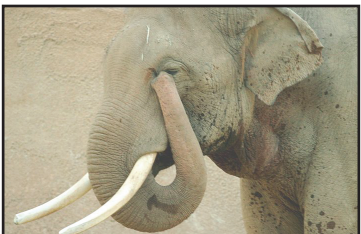
James Zhou
Staff Writer

A few issues back, the Throne announced that we couldn't keep our mascot in our dorms. This is simply ridiculous, a shameful display of spinelessness found only in political science majors. We are engineers, and I'll be damned if we can't keep our mascot on campus!

The first step I took was to procure an elephant. This was actually fairly easy to do, but unfortunately, I was taken aback when the "salesman" asked if I wanted a male or female. Rosie is obviously a girl's name, but the elephant on my shirt reeks of masculine fury. At any rate, I decided to compromise; I would get a female elephant and inject

her with a few pints of testosterone. And add some tusk implants so she'll look more like these elephants in *Nature*. That way, we'll finally have a Rosie! Take that, Purdue! You and your rusty junk heap of a locomotive knock-off.

Unfortunately, I hit a little snag on the way. Apparently, elephants juiced on testosterone become aggressive! In hindsight, I probably shouldn't have asked an EE about female physiology. Or had a Civil design the non-concrete restraints. Anyway, Rosie went on a rampage in downtown Terre Haute. Luckily, no one could really tell the difference, so the authorities didn't press charges. I'm not really sure where Rosie went. I believe that the Rose women are hiding her from my perfectly normal and legitimate



Aaron Logan / Creative Commons Attribution 1.0
A drugged-up "Rosie" makes a rude gesture at the camera.

intentions, as they threatened to smite me onto the blacklist if I attempted to locate her again. Still, we need a Rosie and I am not going to give up. I have gathered a crack-free team of MEs to build a better, stronger, and faster Rosie MK.II. Once we have finished bioengineering flesh onto her adamantium skeleton, Rosie will be back... with vengeance!

Fiery sleep

Philip Becker
Staff Writer

Driving home is fantastic! I get so see all my loved ones I left behind to study at this wonderful institution of learning. To maximize time with all these people, I forgo that pesky "sleep" thing. As a result, the return trip gets to be pretty zany.

At one point I was driving behind a tadpole about ten times the size of my car. It was just sliding backwards down the interstate. My suspicion was aroused when I realized that tadpoles don't slide, especially not backwards. Then I realized that they usually swim in water and aren't found on the interstate. The nail in the coffin was that it was ten times the size of my car. So a quick blink of the eye and shake of the head revealed it to be the compact car I was following.

Since I was tired, I decided to stop. I perused the soda in the back of this gas station. I always do this, but it seems to be a lost cause. Vault doesn't even keep me awake, and it not only is pumped with caffeine, but tastes terrible. But I grabbed a soda anyways.

But brilliance hit me: I should get some Fiery Habanero Doritos! Normally I buy them out of my own incompetence. I say, "Ooo... I like spicy foods, especially when they are made with habanero peppers!" So I buy them and take a bit only to be painfully reminded that those chips really burn. Uncomfortably burn. Most people are smart

enough to avoid things that hurt them.

Then, as I started to hallucinate from sleep loss again, I munched on a chip. I made that "ahhhhhh" sound you make when your mouth is burning and cringed as I tried to wash it out with soda. Then I thought about those people who eat spicy stuff and it doesn't bother them.

What is with those people? "Yeah, I drank some of that hot sauce once. It was really bland."

All I can be is puzzled, because I've just told them how I accidentally spilled some on my couch and it burned a hole through the cushion. Those people drive me nuts, because they act like there's something wrong with everyone else because they think it's hot. Well, you spicy food people, you are the weird ones! Go suck on a blow torch!

I think this anger is what got me home, more than the chip itself. And anytime my mind would wander to man-eating tadpoles, I would just eat a chip and get angry at those people. It worked well enough; I didn't fall asleep until I was in Rose's parking lot.

Wacky Prof Quotes

"Anybody can get a 100%; let's shoot for 90.02%."
-- Prof. Goldman on appropriate effort

"I'm going to cheat...well, make efficient use of the time I have left on Earth."
-- Prof. Galinaitis using Maple to solve by hand

"It sounds like I am stepping on gerbils up here!"
-- Prof. Clifton on squeaky whiteboard markers

"Imagine you're laying out on a hot summer day, throwing a frisbee, girls in tank tops... no, scratch that... boys in tank tops... scratch that too."
-- Prof. Hoover getting distracted

Send your prof quotes or other humor material to flipside@rose-hulman.edu



-Luke Plummer